

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 EAE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 DODE-00 ACDA-07

SAJ-01 OMB-01 /073 W

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P R 201446Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3209

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0998

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, XJ

SUBJ: PRC APPROACH TO UK HIGH COMMISSION

1. DURING AIRPORT DEPARTURE CEREMONIES FOR PRES KAUNDA, ACTING UK HIGH COMMISSIONER MCQUIGGAN TOLD AMBASSADOR HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY PRC AMBASSADOR, REQUESTING APPOINTMENT TO DISCUSS SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. CHINESE CONCERNED ABOUT SIZE AND SCOPE OF SOVIET MACHINATIONS, AND ANXIOUS EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH UK.

2. MCQUIGGAN OFFERED TO REPORT ANY INFORMATION GLEANED AND ASKED WHETHER WE HAD ANY INFORMATION WE WOULD WISH PASS TO PRC AMBASSADOR OR POINTS WE WANT TO MAKE. MCQUIGGAN CAN SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER SECRETARY'S VISIT HERE APRIL 26-27.

3. DOES DEPARTMENT WISH PROVIDE TALKING POINTS FOR MCQUIGGAN'S USE ?

4. EMBASSY'S RELATIONS WITH PRC REP HERE ARE LIMITED TO PLEASANTRIES ON SOCIAL OCCASIONS. AMBASSADOR HAS ATTEMPTED ENGAGE CHINESE AMBASSADOR LI CHIANG-FEN IN SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATION WITHOUT SUCCESS. AT DINNER APRIL 14, LI OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED AND UNCOMFORTABLE WHEN ASKED VIEWS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND
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REPLIED WITH ALTERNATING LAUGHTER AND CHALLENGING BARBS.

PRC EMBASSY APPARENTLY UNDER INSTRUCTIONS AVOID SUBSTANTIVE
DISCUSSIONS WITH US. OTHER WESTERN AMBASSADORS TELL US THEY
HAVE HAD SERIOUS AND THOUGHTFUL CONVERSATIONS WITH CHINESE IN
EXCHANGE CALLS AT CHANCERIES, BUT CANNOT GET BEYOND LIGHT
CHIT-CHAT AT SOCIAL EVENTS.
WILKOWSKI

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